IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for producing a functional film which comprises at least one functional layer comprising a compressed layer of functional particles having a diameter of ~~10 :m~~ 10 μm or less on a support, said method comprising :

applying a liquid in which the functional particles are dispersed onto a transfer support and drying the liquid to form a transfer precursor film having a layer containing the functional particles formed on the transfer support at a temperature of 10 to 150 °C;

superposing the support on which the functional layer is to be formed and said transfer precursor film so that the support and said layer containing the functional particles are brought into contact with each other, and

compressing said layer containing the functional particles to form the compressed layer of the functional particles on the support with a roll press machine at a compression force of at least 44 N/mm^2; and thereafter

releasing the transfer support from said compressed layer of the functional particles,

wherein the compressing and a transfer of the layer containing the functional particles from the transfer support to the support occur at the same time.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The method for producing a functional film according to claim 1, wherein a surface of the support on which the functional layer is to be formed is softer than a pencil hardness of 2H.

Claim 3 (Cancelled).

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The method for producing a functional film according to claim 1, wherein said layer containing the functional particles is compressed at such a temperature that said support and said transfer support are not deformed.

Claim 5 (Cancelled).

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The method for producing a functional film according to claim 1, wherein said transfer support has a coating layer having a pencil hardness of 2H or harder on a surface thereof on which the layer containing the functional fine particles is to be formed.

Claim 7 (Original): The method for producing a functional film according to claim 1, wherein said support is a film made of resin.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The method for producing a functional film according to claim 1, wherein said functional particles are selected from inorganic particles.

Claim 9 (Original): The method for producing a functional film according to claim 1, wherein the functional layer is selected from the group consisting of a conductive layer, an ultraviolet shielding layer, an infrared shielding layer, a magnetic layer, a ferromagnetic layer, a dielectric layer, a ferroelectric layer, an electrochromic layer, an electroluminescent layer, an insulating layer, a light-absorbing layer, a light selecting absorbing layer, a reflecting layer, a reflection preventing layer, a catalyst layer and a photocatalyst layer.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The method for producing a functional film according to claim 1, wherein conductive particles are used as said functional particles to form a conductive layer.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The method for producing a functional film according to claim 10, wherein inorganic conductive fine particles used as said conductive fine particles are selected from the group consisting of tin oxide, indium oxide, zinc oxide, cadmium oxide, antimony-doped tin oxide , fluorine-doped tin oxide , tin-doped indium oxide and aluminum-doped zinc oxide .

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The method for producing a functional film according to claim 1, wherein said layer containing the functional particles is compressed with a compression force of at least 138 N/mm^2.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The method for producing a functional film according to claim 1, wherein said layer containing the functional particles is compressed with a compression force of at least 183 N/mm^2.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The method for producing a functional film according to claim 1, wherein said layer containing the functional particles is compressed with a compression force of up to 1000 N/mm^2.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claims 1-4 and 6-14 are active in the present application. Independent Claim 1 has been amended to state that the step of compressing and a transfer of the layer containing the functional particles occur at the same time. Support for the amendment to independent Claim 1 is found in Example 1. For example, on page 40, line 3 from the bottom to page 41, line 11, an embodiment of the invention is disclosed wherein a transfer support, a layer containing functional particles, and a support are sandwiched and compressed. The compression functions to transfer the layer containing the functional particles from the transfer support film to the support. See for example page 41, lines 3-8:

> After compression, the transfer support (2) was released from the compressed layer of the ITO fine particles (4) formed on the support (1). Thus, an ITO film (Fig. 3) having the compressed layer of the ITO fine particles (4) formed on the support (1) was obtained.

No new matter is added.